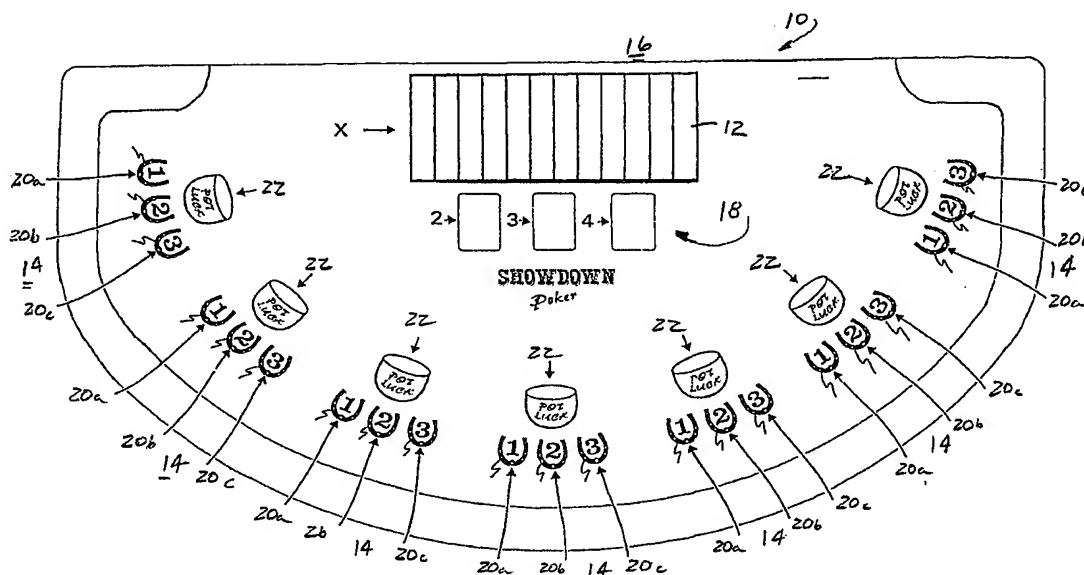




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## (57) Abstract

A method for playing a casino game is set forth wherein, in a table game format, players make an ante and an outcome wager. Each player is dealt a plurality of cards and a plurality of cards, some face up and some face down, are dealt as community cards. Players are given the option of discarding or holding cards and increasing their outcome wagers before revelation of community cards. Ante wagers are won by the player with the highest ranking hand and outcome wager(s) are won based upon a schedule of winning outcomes. For an electronic version, the method includes the player making wagers as indicia are revealed and given the opportunity of holding or discarding indicia during play.

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## CASINO METHOD AND DEVICE THEREFOR

### Field of the Invention

5           The present invention relates to methods for playing a casino game in the nature of poker using one or more decks of conventional playing cards or other means for selecting indicia and an electronic device therefor.

### Background of the Invention

10           Poker is a popular game throughout the world. It combines principles of card games known for centuries in Europe but in its present form it is distinctly of American origin. There are numerous forms of Poker and the main divisions are: Draw Poker, in which all of a player's cards are unknown to his opponents and Stud Poker, in which some of the player's cards are face up and others face down. Within the above two broad categories numerous variations exist with "Holdem" or "Texas Holdem", Omaha and 7 Card Stud being popular examples. In "Holdem" after two cards are dealt to each player as well as three communal cards, a designated player such the player with the highest or lowest exposed card, starts the betting by placing an ante wager. To stay in the game each player must, for each betting round, match wagers being made or drop from the game. As betting intervals continue communal cards are revealed. The player with the highest Poker ranked hand assembled from their own cards and the four communal cards wins the pot.

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25           In modern casinos the game of Poker takes one of three forms: live or cardroom Poker where players compete against one another but the games are controlled and supervised by a house dealer who removes a house levy either

in the form of a participation fee or as a percentage of winning hands; electronic video machines offering various forms of Poker; and Poker played as a "bankers game" either where the game involves players in contest with the dealer's hand or where the object is for the players to obtain a hand based on hierarchical Poker rankings. In both versions of Banker games the house enjoys a favorable advantage based on a paytable that is structured in such a way that the pay-offs are not based on the true mathematical odds, or rules of play so structured that the house has a favorable edge.

The growth in casinos has prompted the introduction of new games and variations to established games. Numerous patents have been granted in this particular field. For example, in U.S. Patents 4,836,553 and 4,948,134 (Suttle et al.) a casino type Poker game is disclosed in which players each play against a dealer (a banked game). If a player wins, he receives a bonus payment depending on the Poker rank of his hand. Various patents disclose casino type games where for example a standard deck is modified, for example, U.S. Patent 5,423,551 (Stravinsky) where cards are dealt from two standard decks of fifty two cards plus eighteen special cards; U.S. Patent 5,540,444 (Nguyen) discloses a deck of cards consisting of thirty two cards; U.S. Patent 5,397,128 (Hesse et al.) discloses a casino game where cards are assigned certain values and the object is to hit a total 9 in total count or value.

Various other patents disclose further variations to traditional forms of Poker. Sklansky Pat. No. 5,382,025 discloses a modification of Texas Holdem whereby players do not compete against one another and whereby players have the opportunity to select their two card hand from a plurality of hands dealt face-up. Breeding Pat. No. 5,417,430 discloses a Poker banker game in

which the players place three bets at the outset but as the game unfolds the players are given the option of withdrawing two of their wagers. Potter et al Pat No. 5,494,295 disclose an invention which provides a method whereby a plurality of hand ranking rules can be utilized within a single type wagering game.

It is to be noted that Poker in casinos (excluding video style machines) takes two distinct forms and method of operation; cardroom Poker where players compete against one another and banking type Poker games where players do not compete against one another but against the house either in terms of competing with a dealer or where there is no dealer hand and the object is to reach certain winning combinations.

There is a need for a game method where players both compete against one another and against the house and where they have the opportunity to receive bonus payments by achieving certain winning Poker hands/combinations.

With reference to electronic, video casino games the prior art discloses a number of Poker type games. Video Draw Poker is the most widely played of such games. In Video Draw Poker, a player places a wager of 1-5 units and a hand of five cards composed of electronically produced visual representation are displayed on a monitor. The player has the option of discarding some or all of the cards and receiving replacements which are selected by the machine's processor from memory. If the player's hand corresponds to one of the hands based on Poker ranking he wins the corresponding award displayed on the payable. The award is multiplied by the number of units bet. Video Draw Poker appears in a progressive jackpot form - a player qualifies for the

progressive jackpot provided he wagers the maximum number of units permissible (usually 5).

5 There is a need for an electronic Poker game where players place a wager prior to the deal as in Video Draw Poker but may thereafter double and treble their original bet. Such a game would dramatically change the dynamics of strategy. Skillful play based on optimal strategy would reward a player by permitting him to increase his winnings two or three-fold. The game would appeal to players by providing the opportunity to make multiple wagers and decisions related to those wagers based on the progress of the game. Casino  
10 operators would welcome an innovation that results in an increase of the amount wagered.

In other types of slot machines such as the multi-reel slot machines, there is also a need to increase player participation and excitement in obtaining outcomes. According to present day machines, which may be  
15 electro-mechanical or of a video display type, the player makes a wager and the machine's processor selects an outcome which is displayed by mechanically rotating reels having indicia (and blank locations) thereon to align the indicia or blanks at a designated payline(s). For the video display version, the processor simulates the rotation of reels to produce the same result. Once  
20 initiated, the player has no input or control over the ultimate outcome. It would be advantageous to provide a method and device which would enable the player to participate in obtaining the outcome by giving the player an opportunity to increase their wager and discard one or more symbols from the initial display at the payline(s) and receive replacements therefor.

### Summary of the Invention

There is therefor provided according to the present invention a device and method for playing a game which increases the opportunity for the player to increase their wager during play and to discard at least a portion of an initial holding to attempt to better their final outcome. The method can be practiced  
5 in a live, table game format or by use of a device.

Accordingly, the method includes the player making a wager and initiating play by providing an initial holding to the player. The initial holding may be cards dealt by a dealer or symbols displayed at a display. The player  
10 is given the opportunity to increase their initial wager and to discard one or more of the components of the initial holding. In an alternate embodiment, the players may not obtain replacement cards. Those components, e.g. cards, or symbols displayed, which can be replaced are replaced by replacement(s) to produce a final outcome. If the final outcome is a designated winning outcome,  
15 the player receives a payoff based upon their wager(s) and if the outcome is a losing outcome the player's wager(s) are lost.

In a reel-type slot machine format, the method is practiced by the player making a wager and initiating play whereupon the gaming device randomly selects and displays at a payline(s) an initial holding as indicia on slot machine  
20 reels registering at the payline. The player assesses their initial holding and may stand or increase their wager to receive replacements for one or more of the indicia. If the player stands, the initial holding is the final outcome and the player wins or loses based upon that outcome. If the player has obtained a winning outcome, he is paid according to his wager and a predetermined  
25 payable. If the player elects to increase their wager to receive replacements,

they make their additional wager and select which indicia from the initial holding to discard (or hold) the indicia by respinning the reel(s) to produce a final outcome. If the player has obtained a winning outcome, they are paid based upon their initial and second wager and an established payout schedule.

5 If the outcome is a losing outcome, the wagers are lost.

In a live table game format, the players each make an initial ante wager and a first outcome wager. The dealer deals cards to the players and a community hand to be shared by all players to make the best five card Poker hand. The dealing may be according to any one of the following formats of

10 Table 1:

Table 1

	Format	Player's Cards	Community Cards
15	1	2 cards, face down	At least 3 cards, one face up
	2	3 cards, face down	At least 2 cards, face down

20 The players each assess their cards and opt to discard none, some or all of their cards which are replaced by cards dealt by the dealer to define each Player's initial holding. Again, according to an alternate embodiment, the players may not obtain replacement cards. If the Players so wish they may place a second outcome wager in an amount corresponding to their first

25 outcome wager and the dealer then reveals a first face down card of the community hand. The Players again each assess their hands and may opt place a third outcome wager and the dealer then reveals the remainder of the face down cards of the community hand. From the Player's cards and the cards of the community hand, each Player makes the highest ranking Poker



hand they can which defines the Player's final outcome. The Player with the highest ranking outcome collects the ante wagers from the other Players. Each Player's outcome is also compared to a schedule of winning outcomes. If the Player has such an outcome, e.g. a four-of-a-kind, the Player receives a payout from the dealer according to a payout schedule.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

The feature and advantages of the various embodiments of a preferred gaming table and layout in accordance with the present invention is illustrated in the drawings wherein:

FIG. 1A is a top plan view of the gaming table layout for live table play of the various embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 1B is a top plan view of a gaming table layout for live table play of a further embodiment of the method of the present invention;

FIG. 2 shows an electronic device for playing the game according to the present invention; and

FIG. 3 shows an electronic device for playing the game according to a further embodiment of the present invention.

#### Description

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention a gaming layout is provided having a surface as illustrated in FIG. 1 for playing the game of the method of the present invention using, preferably, a single deck of standard playing cards. The method employs the same basic priority or ranking of five card hands according to the rules of Poker familiar to players and as set forth in Table 2.

TABLE 2

	Royal Flush
	Straight Flush
5	Four-of-a-Kind
	Full House
	Flush
	Straight
	3-of-a-Kind
10	Two Pair
	One Pair
	High Card(s)

Referring to FIG. 1 the layout 10 (semi-circular) again a configuration familiar to players. A rack 12 is provided for housing the chips/checks used during play of the game of the method. The layout 10 has locations 14 for the players and a location 16 for the dealer. Between the dealer and player locations 16, 14 is an area 18 marked with indicia "2, 3 & 4" to define the areas wherein the community cards are positioned by the dealer during play of the game. The area 18 which designates the position of the dealer's/community cards can be denoted to position from two to five community cards. Where five community cards are used, the area 18 would have designations "2"- "6". Each player location 14 designates outcome wager areas 20a-c for the reception of players' chips. The outcome wager areas 20a-c may be denoted by horseshoe symbols situated in front of each player and identified by numerals "1, 2 & 3" to signify the numbers of wagers which may be made in the course of a round

of the game. These numbered outcome wager areas 20a-c can number from two to five per player and be appropriately numbered in sequence, i.e. 1, 2 3 ... but in the preferred embodiment of the game three outcome wager areas 20a-c representing three separate wagers. The outcome wager areas 20a-c need not be stylized in the form of a horseshoe and can be in the form of geometric shapes or bear, for example, the casino's logo.

As described below, the outcome wager(s) made by the players are directed to a payable ranking of the final hand assembled by the player during play.

Directly in front of each player location 14 is an ante wager area 22 which may be denoted by a depiction of a Pot, labeled "Pot Luck". The ante wager area 22 receives the wager made by the player, not that he will obtain a hand of a certain ranking, but to compete against the other players at the table.

In the method of the game of the present invention, the objects of the method are twofold:

- 1) to make a Poker hand, using individual cards and the community cards, which corresponds to a predetermined payable of hands, and;
- 2) to win the ante wagers at the table by assembling the highest ranking Poker hand among all the players at the table.

In the case of the first object, the house payment schedule, or payable, lists a series of Poker hands with corresponding pay-offs. These payoffs correspond to the outcome wager(s) made by the player. Thus, with respect to the outcome wager(s) as hereinafter described, the player is playing against

the house by trying to obtain a final hand which corresponds to one of the hands listed in the established payable.

In the case of the second object and with respect to the ante wager, the player with the highest Poker hand showing wins the ante wagers. The ante  
5      wager is a bet solely between the players and does not involve a wager against  
or to be paid by the house (casino).

#### The Method Of Play

At the start of each game and prior to receiving cards all players make  
their ante wager by placing their bet in area 22. Each player also places a first  
10      outcome wager in betting area 20a.

The dealer shuffles the cards and deals one community card face down  
in the area 18 on the layout marked "4" and deals each participating player one  
card, face-down. The dealer then places a second community card face-down  
in the area 18 marked "3" and deals the players a second card face-down. The  
15      dealer concludes the initial deal by placing a third community card, face-up, in  
the area 18 marked "2". The three cards in the area 18 denoted "2, 3 & 4" are  
community cards and are used by all players, with the cards dealt to the  
players, to assemble a five card Poker hand. After the initial deal and  
examining their cards, each player has the option of discarding their first or  
20      second cards, or both, face down and receiving replacement cards therefor.

After all players have exercised their option to receive one or more  
replacement cards, each player in succession has the option to either  
(1) "stand" by making no further outcome wagers or (2) "raise" by wagering a  
second outcome wager in area 20b. When all players have exercised their  
25      option of placing second outcome wagers, a second community card in area

18 denoted "3" is revealed by the dealer. Players may again exercise their option to either (1) stand or (2) raise by making a third outcome wager in outcome wager area 20c. Making the third outcome wager is predicated upon the player having made the second outcome wager. That is, for the player to  
5 be eligible to place a third outcome wager, they must have made the second outcome wager.

An alternative version of the preferred embodiment of the game would be where each player is dealt three cards face down, which he has the option of discarding and receiving replacements, and the community hand would  
10 consist of two cards face down. In this version, the layout of which is shown in FIG. 1B, the method of play would be similar to that described above. After the deal of the initial three card hand to each player and after all players have exercised their option to receive one or more replacement cards, each player in succession has the option to either (1) "stand" by making no further outcome  
15 wagers or (2) "raise" by making a second outcome wager corresponding in value to their first outcome wager in area 20b. When all players have exercised their option of placing second outcome wagers, the first community card in area 18 denoted "2" is revealed by the dealer. At this point player may again exercise their option to either (1) stand or (2) raise. Players are entitled  
20 to raise if they had previously placed the second outcome wager. If so entitled and the player so opts, he places his third outcome wager in area 20c. The dealer then reveals the remaining community card.

The method is not limited to the above description/procedure with a deal relating to five cards per player, i.e. a two card player hand and three  
25 community cards. The deal can be composed of five to ten cards divided

between the community cards and the cards each player receives; but in each case a player would still select five cards to constitute the highest ranking hand. A further variation of the deal consists in changing the mix of the number of cards dealt to the players and those that constitute the community cards. An example of a deal using seven cards and altering the mix of both community cards such as by each player receiving three cards (two cards face-down and one face-up or all three cards face down), and the community cards (the Flop) would comprise four cards, one face-up and three face-down.

Returning to the preferred embodiments described above, after all the community cards have been revealed, the players each turn over their cards. The outcome wagers are resolved first by the dealer comparing the player's final hand (the player's cards and the community cards) to a predetermined payable of hands preferably related to the familiar ranking of Poker hands and as suggested by Table 1 above. The payoffs for each ranking and for each outcome wager made is as set forth in Table 3 below:

TABLE 3

	Royal Flush	250 to 1
	Straight Flush	100 to 1
	4-Of-A-Kind	25 to 1
20	Full House	9 to 1
	Flush	7 to 1
	Straight	5 to 1
	3-Of-A-Kind	3 to 1
	Two Pair	2 to 1
25	Jacks or better	Push

Referring to the preferred embodiment of the game exemplified in the layout FIG. 1A, Table 2 illustrates the pay-offs in relation to the list of Poker rankings applicable to the game. The house advantage is achieved because a difference exists between the true mathematical odds and the actual pay-offs.

5 The method can be played by offering odds/pay-offs of a higher or lower order resulting in different vigourishes accruing to the house.

The method can include the addition of specific side wagers. An example of the addition of a wager is an optional wager whereby, if the first three cards of a player's hand comprises one of a number of select pre-determined combinations, he will receive specific pay-offs. In the above example applied to the preferred embodiment of the game, the combinations apply to the two cards dealt to a player and include the face-up community card or in the case where all community cards are face down, then the first community card revealed by the dealer. Alternatively where each player is dealt three cards face-down the additional wager will apply to the players three cards and not to any of the community cards. This wager applies to cards dealt only and not to discards and replacements.

15 The method can also include a progressive jackpot. The method would include an optional wager made at the start of each game, the object to win one to five high combinations e.g. Royal Flush, Straight Flush, etc.; a proportion of each such bet would be automatically added to a progressive jackpot displayed on a win meter. Those players that qualify as winners are paid out according to the current jackpot pay-table. Co-winners share the jackpot as an aggregate.

25 The jackpot can also be fixed and funded from the optional wager.

Alternatively, the outcome jackpot, progressive or fixed, can be funded as a portion from the mandatory ante wagers. For example, a levy would be assessed against the pot assembled from the ante wagers, that levy used to fund the jackpot.

5           A further embodiment of the present invention, wherein a progressive or fixed jackpot is a feature of the game, is so structured that the jackpot is divided into a primary jackpot with a Royal Flush being the winning combination and a secondary jackpot being awarded to the player who holds a specified ranked hand and is beaten by a player holding a higher ranked  
10           hand in the same round of play, i.e. a bad beat jackpot. The winner of the secondary jackpot will receive 50% of the running total displayed on the win meter; the player with the higher hand receives 25% of the running total and the balance is shared equally by the other players participating in that particular round of play.

15           After the outcome wagers have been resolved, the players' final hands are compared to determine which player has the highest ranking hand. The player having the highest ranking hand is awarded all of the ante wagers made less any levy on the pot. Players having equally ranked hands share equally in the award of the ante wagers.

20           Thus it can be seen that the players have multiple opportunities to win and can, by increasing their outcome wagers, increase the amount of their payoffs.

          A further variation of the present invention consists of combining the jackpot bet with the ante bet. The method would be identical to that described  
25           in the foregoing paragraph with the highest hand taking the ante bets in all cases except the case of the secondary jackpot situation occurring. A



proportion of the ante wager pot would, in each round of play, be deducted from the winnings as a vigourish for the casino and an additional levy from the winnings to fund the jackpot.

5 For card room Poker games such as Hold'em, Omaha or 7 card Stud, the basic game is played in the normal fashion according to the rules of the game. Additionally each player has an option of placing a separate outcome wager. For the pot, assembled from the various betting rounds, the player with the highest ranking Poker hand wins the pot according to the rules of the game. The outcome wagers are won or lost based upon a comparison of each  
10 player's hand to a pre-determined payable. The payable may be based upon the player's first cards or the best five card hand which can be assembled from the player's hand. For example, a player may lose the hand and not be awarded the pot, but have a hand of three-of-a-kind and be awarded a prize such as a pay of three-to-one based upon the amount of his optional side  
15 wager.

The method, with reference to FIG. 2, can be adapted and played on a video game machine device 100 in various forms.

As depicted in FIG. 2, the electronic video poker device 100 includes a display screen 110 operative in a well-known manner controlled by a processor  
20 (not shown) of known design to display representations of conventional playing cards thereon. In accordance with the present invention, the processor of the device 100 is instructed pursuant to a program which may, for example, be stored in the PROM component of the internal circuitry. The processor is programmed to enable the electronic device 100 to play any one or more of the  
25 alternative embodiments of the method of the game described.

In a preferred embodiment of the device 100 of the present invention a video display screen 110 displays five cards 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115 randomly selected from a data structure containing data representing each card of a deck of fifty-two (fifty-three if the game is played in a Joker wild format) playing cards. The selected cards 111, 112 and 113 appear face-up and cards 114 and 115 appear face-down. In accordance with generally known technology in the field of video poker machines, the processor of the device 100, under program instruction, will accurately simulate the random dealing of the five screen card representations, 111-115, from a shuffled conventional fifty-two (or fifty-three) card deck.

The screen 110 displays at 118 the value of the current wager, for example, two tokens (which tokens may represent, for example, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars, etc.) And similar displays 119 and 120 display the number of accumulated credits (i.e. tokens) and the number of tokens paid out, respectively. A coin acceptor 122 receives wager tokens, or alternatively, coins, bills or credit type cards. A plurality of control buttons 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140 and 142 allow the player to make control inputs during play of the game of the present invention.

In an example of play of the electronic video poker device 100, a player first puts tokens or coins into the acceptor 122 to acquire a credit balance displayed at the credit display 119. If so desired, the player may alternatively place wagers individually before each hand of play by inserting coins, tokens, bills or by debiting a credit card. The player then initiates play by pressing the Deal/Draw button 142. This prompts the processor to select and display the player's five card hand on the video display screen 110. Cards 111, 112 and 113 appear face-up and cards 114 and 115 appear face-down. The displayed

value cards 111-113 define an initial holding for the player. The player evaluates the initial holding and decides whether to hold some or all of the face-up cards. Should he decide to hold this he does by pressing the appropriate hold button(s) 124, 126 and 128 associated with each of the initial holding card position. By pressing the Draw button 142 the player receives replacements for cards he did not hold. The replacement cards are randomly selected from the card data structure (depleted of data representing the initial five cards selected). The displayed three cards, whether held or containing replacements, continue to define the player's initial holding. The player now has the choice of folding, by pressing the fold button 140. Should he fold the two face-up cards 114 and 115 are revealed to display a final, five card Poker hand, outcome and, if he holds a winning Poker combination as defined by an established and displayed payable 143, the player receives a payout at established odds. Should the player not have a winning final outcome, the wager is lost. Should the player, however, and based upon his initial holding, decide not to fold he may exercise the option of placing a second wager which he does by pressing the Bet Credits Button 134 or alternatively presses the button marked Bet 2 136 and inserts coins, tokens, bills in to the acceptor 122, equal in value to the amount he originally bet. If the player has exercised the option and placed a second bet, the fourth card 114 is revealed. Once again the player, having evaluated his four card hand, has the option of folding by pressing the Fold button 140. Should he fold the fifth card is revealed to define the final outcome and the player wins or loses based upon the combination of cards of the final outcome. Should the player decide not to fold he presses the "Bet 3" button 138 and enters the third wager, equal in value to his original bet, in the manner described above, or alternatively inserts coins, tokens or bills

into the acceptor 122. The player then presses the deal/draw button 142 and the identity of the fifth card is revealed to define the final outcome. A "cancel" button 130 allows the player to correct a mistake or change his mind. A player may only place a third wager provided he had placed a second wager.

5           If the player holds a winning, final outcome, Poker combination as displayed on the device 10 he receives the appropriate odds. The odds are multiplied by the number of coins, tokens or bills bet except that the jackpot paid on a Royal Flush will be the amount displayed and the progressive jackpot will be the amount currently displayed on a meter. A player will only be eligible  
10       for the jackpot or progressive jackpot if he had bet the maximum number of coins permissible on his first wager. Paid out coins or tokens may be dispensed into a tray 144 for collection or storage by the player.

          If the player does not obtain a winning final outcome all wagers are lost.

          When a player wishes to cease play, any additional credits may be  
15       refunded by depressing the CASHOUT button 132. The electrical device 100 may be programmed to limit the number of tokens/coins that can be wagered per bet per hand to, for example, five.

          As may be readily understood, the device 100 may be modified and may be programmed to play other embodiments which incorporate the multiple  
20       wagering opportunities of the present invention as described above.

          As yet a further embodiment, the device 100 may be programmed to, when initialized, display an initial hand of five cards with four cards face up and one card face down. The player would then opt to stand or raise. If the player stands, the fifth card is revealed defining the final outcome. If the player  
25       wishes to raise, they place a wager equal in value to their initial wager. The player may then hold none or up to all four of the initial cards. The cards which

are not held are, when the deal draw button 142 is depressed, replaced with cards selected from the data of the remaining cards of the deck and the fifth card is revealed to result in the final outcome.

In still a further embodiment, the player is dealt an initial hand of five cards with three (or four) cards displayed face up. The player may opt to stand whereupon the remaining face down cards are revealed as the final outcome hand. Alternatively the player may be given the option of holding or discarding none up to all of the displayed cards and receive replacements therefor with the originally face down card(s) revealed to result in the final outcome. The player with their initial holding may also opt to double their wager whereupon they are provided with the opportunity to hold or discard the displayed cards of the initial holding. The held cards are replicated to a second hand which is represented by the second wager and the discarded card of the initial hand (J♦) is replaced and the first face down card is revealed. For example, if the player were initially dealt A♥, A♣, J♦, X, X (where "X" represents the face down cards, the player may opt to double their wager and hold the Aces whereupon the display would display the two hand in the following manner:

2<sup>nd</sup> Wager    A♥ A♣ 10♣ A♦ X

1<sup>st</sup> Wager    A♥ A♣ 2♣    Q♣ X

The replacement cards for the discarded cards may be replaced from separate decks or from the same deck. That is, for the second wager hand, if a separate deck is used, it would be a deck whose data is redacted of the A♥, A♣ and J♦.

The player would then be provided with the option of standing, whereupon the remaining face down card is revealed producing two final outcomes, one for the hand of the first wager and one for the hand of the second wager. The player may also opt to place and third wager whereupon

some or all of the cards of either the first or second wager hands is duplicated and the remaining face down card is revealed. For example, if the player makes a third wager, a three now completed hands would be displayed in the manner suggested below:

5                      3<sup>rd</sup> Wager    A♥ A♣ 10♣ A♦ A♠  
                          2<sup>nd</sup> Wager    A♥ A♣ 10♣ A♦ 10♦  
                          1<sup>st</sup> Wager    A♥ A♣ 2♣    Q♠ 4♠

10                    The player is paid based upon the outcome of each hand. Further, as stated above, the face down and replacement cards may be selected from different or the same decks.

15                    The method of play of the present invention can be applied to slot machines and comprises the innovative step of optional, additional wagering opportunities to conventional slot play. A slot machine may be programmed to play any of the embodiments of the present invention described above. The major distinction between the video poker embodiments and the slot machine  
 20                    embodiments is that in the former case cards are drawn from a standard deck and winning combinations are based on poker rank and, in the latter case, a plurality of reels bearing a plurality of symbols and/or numerals determine winning combinations.

25                    Referring to FIG. 3 another embodiment of the present invention is shown. The player enters their initial wager in any known fashion into the device 190 as by inputting token into a coin slot 200. The display screen 110' of the device 190 will, when activated, display indicia of five reels 208a-e; three reels 208a-c display indicia on the payline 204 will appear face-up and two indicia of reels 208d-e on the payline 204 will appear face-down as by displaying a cover 202 over the remaining reels 208d-e. Certain of the indicia

or blanks on the reels 208a-e will be displayed at a designated payline 204. The player, as in the video poker version, has the initial option of discarding one or more of the presentations of the reels 208a-c at the payline 204 and receiving replacements therefor. The reel 208a-c presentations, which are  
5 discarded by using the action buttons 206a-c, are replaced by respinning of the discarded reels 208a-c to obtain a revised initial, three reel presentation at the payline 204.

After the player has discarded and obtained any revised initial holding, the player has the option of standing, doubling and trebling his initial wager.  
10 If the player elects to stand, he depresses an appropriate action button 210 and the cover 202 is removed revealing the remaining reels 208d-e indicia which are on the payline 204. Alternatively, the remaining reels 208c-d may spin to position their indicia (or blanks) at the payline 204 to define a final winning or losing outcome. If a winning final outcome is obtained, the player  
15 is paid according to established odds based upon the wager made. If the final outcome is a losing outcome, the player loses their wager.

If the player elects not to stand, they depress an action button and insert a second wager, preferably equal to their initial wager. After the second wager has been made the fourth reel 208d is spun or the cover 202 is partially  
20 removed to display a fourth reel 208d indicia or blank at the payline. The player may now elect again to stand by depressing action button 210 whereupon the fifth reel 208e is revealed to define a five reel, winning or losing, final outcome. If the final outcome is a winning outcome the player is paid based upon their first and second wagers. If the final outcome is a losing outcome, both of the  
25 player's wagers are lost.

Should the player elect not to stand, he depresses a suitable action button and inserts a third wager, preferably equal to the first wager as well. Upon acceptance of the third wager, the fifth reel 208e is spun or the cover 202 is removed to display an indicia (or blank) on the payline 204 to define the final, five reel, winning or losing, final outcome. If the final outcome is a winning outcome the player is paid based upon all three wagers and if the final outcome is a losing outcome, all three of the player's wagers are lost.

The method may be directed to a game having a single payline 204 or multiple paylines 203a,b.

A progressive jackpot feature may be incorporated into the device 190 or similar devices 190 linked to allocate a portion of the wagers to a progressive jackpot to be won based upon a obtaining a designated final outcome. The progressive may only be made available if the player has placed all wagers; or multiple progressive jackpots may be provided depending upon the number of wagers made by the player.

While I have shown a five reel slot machine it is to be understood that the method and device of the present invention could be used in a three reel or other multi-reel game.

In addition to the example embodiment of the invention described in detail above, other variants may also be practiced within the scope of the present invention comprising additional, optional wagering opportunities. Standard slot machines where all indicia appear face-up on the display screen can be adapted to incorporate multiple wagering opportunities whereby players can either double their initial bet or double and treble their initial bet. The innovative method of play of the present invention can be applied to standard slot machines irrespective of the number of reels, and would comprise the



player placing an initial bet, pressing the spin button or pulling a handle which activates the random generation of indicia on the display screen. Having examined his "hand" the player has the option of holding or receiving replacements for some or all of the indicia on the reels. According to the present invention the player would, in addition, have the option of doubling his initial wager.

Should the player decide to double his initial bet he does so accordingly and then presses the spin button and receives replacements for any indicia discarded. The option to place a second wager is conditional on the player making at least one discard of his original "hand." The application of the method of play of the present invention relating to the innovative step of an optional additional wager is applicable to any slot machine configuration in terms of:

- (a) the number of reels per machine and the number of indicia per reel.
- (b) any permutation re face-up and face-down indicia.
- (c) any permutation re pre-determined winning combinations of indicia in the form of symbols or numerals.
- (d) any permutation re the number of pay-lines displayed, be they horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

The method of play of the present invention can be applied to both video machines and slot machines where touch-screen technology has replaced button input. In addition the method of play of the present invention can be applied to video machines and slot machines that incorporate bonus bets or jackpots and progressive jackpot features linked to wheel components.

Still further the method may be modified by providing the player with the option of, if they have made the second or third wagers, discarding the indicia revealed upon making such a wager. For example, in the embodiment shown in FIG. 2, upon making a second wager the fourth card is revealed. At this point the player is presented with either holding or discarding the fourth card. If the card is discarded it is replaced before providing the player with the option of making the third wager. Similarly, if the player makes a third wager and the fifth card is revealed, the player is presented with an option of discarding or holding the fifth card to define the final outcome.

This same method of holding or discarding subsequently revealed indicia can also be applied to reel-type slot machines.

It is to be understood that the present invention is subject to many modifications and changes without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I CLAIM:

1. A method for playing a casino game between a plurality of players and a house dealer using playing cards comprising:

the players making an ante wager and a first outcome wager;

5 the dealer dealing cards to each player and community cards to be shared by all players to form a five card poker hand according to a selected one of the schedules of Table 1,

10

Table 1

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Player's Cards</u>	<u>Community Cards</u>
15	1	2 cards, face down	at least 3 cards, one face up
	2	3 cards, face down	at least 2 cards, face down

20 the players each opting to hold or discard one or more of their cards, any discarded cards replaced with replacement cards by the dealer, the player's cards with or without replacement cards defining an initial holding for the player;

the players assessing their initial holdings and opting to place a second outcome wager of an amount equal to said first outcome wager;

25 after the players have exercised their option to place a second outcome wager the dealer revealing a face down community card to the players;

the players opting to place a third outcome wager of the amount of said first outcome wager;

after the players have exercised their option to place a third outcome  
wager, the dealer revealing the remainder of the face down community card(s),  
whereupon the players each from their initial holding and the exposed  
community cards forming a best five card final hand according to the rankings  
5 of Poker hands;

comparing the rankings of the players hands, the player with the highest  
ranking declared the winner of the ante wagers and collecting the same from  
the remainder of the players; and

assessing the ranking of each players final hand and the dealer paying  
10 the player or collecting the outcome wagers based upon comparison of the  
players final hand outcome to a predetermined schedule of winning outcomes.

2. The method of claim 1 including comparing the player(s) final hand to  
a schedule of winning outcomes based upon the ranking of hands of Poker.

3. The method of claim 1 including providing a schedule of winning  
15 outcomes and payoffs according to Table 1,

Table 1

	Royal Flush	250 to 1
	Straight Flush	100 to 1
	4-Of-A-Kind	25 to 1
20	Full House	9 to 1
	Flush	7 to 1
	Straight	5 to 1
	3-Of-A-Kind	3 to 1
	Two Pair	2 to 1
25	Jacks or better	Push

4. A method for playing a casino game comprising:  
the player making an initial wager to participate in the game;  
presenting a partial outcome to the player consisting of at least two  
30 exposed indicia representing an initial holding, said indicia randomly selected

from a field of indicia, at least three exposed indicia representing a final outcome;

the player opting to hold or discard some or none of the indicia of the initial holding;

5 replacing any discarded indicia of the initial holding with replacement indicia to redefine the initial holding;

the player opting to increase their initial wager based upon assessment of the exposed indicia of the initial holding or stand;

10 after the player has exercised their option, exposing the third indicia to define the final outcome; and

comparing the final outcome to a schedule of winning final outcomes and if the player has obtained a winning final outcome paying the player based upon their wager(s) and if the player has not obtained a winning final outcome collecting the player's wager(s).

15 5. The method of claim 4 wherein presenting said indicia includes providing a display of three or more reels each including a plurality of indicia.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein presenting said indicia includes providing a display of five playing cards and providing said winning outcomes based upon the ranking of hands of Poker.

20 7. The method of claim 6 including,

providing an initial display of three cards of a five card Poker hand,

the player opting to place a second wager or stand, if the player stands revealing the remaining two cards to define a five card, final outcome, Poker hand,

25 if the player makes a second wager exposing the fourth card,

the player opting to place a third wager or stand,

revealing the remaining card to define a five card, final outcome, Poker hand, and

comparing the final outcome to said schedule of winning outcomes.

8. The method of claim 7 including the player having made a second wager  
5 opting to hold or discard the fourth card, if said fourth card is discarded, replacing said fourth card.

9. The method of claim 8 further including, if the player has made a third wager, the player opting to hold or discard the fifth card, said fifth card if discarded replacing said fifth card.

10. A method for playing a casino game between a plurality of players and a house dealer using playing cards comprising:

the players making an ante wager and a first outcome wager;

the dealer dealing cards to each player and community cards to be shared by all players to form a five card poker hand according to a selected  
15 one of the schedules of Table 1,

Table 1

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Player's Cards</u>	<u>Community Cards</u>
20	1	2 cards, face down	at least 3 cards, one face up
	2	3 cards, face down	at least 2 cards, face down

25 the players each opting to hold or discard one or more of their cards, any discarded cards replaced with replacement cards by the dealer, the player's cards with or without replacement cards defining an initial holding for the player;

the players assessing their initial holdings and opting to place a second  
30 outcome wager of an amount equal to said first outcome wager;

after the players have exercised their option to place a second outcome wager the dealer revealing a face down community card to the players;

the players opting to place a third outcome wager of the amount of said first outcome wager;

5 after the players have exercised their option to place a third outcome wager, the dealer revealing the remainder of the face down community card(s), whereupon the players each from their initial holding and the exposed community cards forming a best five card final hand according to the rankings of Poker hands;

10 comparing the rankings of the players hands, the player with the highest ranking declared the winner of the ante wagers and collecting the same from the remainder of the players;

exactng a levy from the ante wagers, at least a portion of said levy funding a jackpot;

15 assessing the ranking of each players final hand and the dealer paying the player or collecting the outcome wagers based upon comparison of the players final hand outcome to a predetermined schedule of winning outcomes; and

20 if a player has obtained a predetermined jackpot outcome, awarding to the player said jackpot.

11. The method of claim 10 including exactng said levy to fund a primary and a secondary jackpot, if the player has obtained a predetermined outcome, awarding the player said primary jackpot and if a player has a final hand outcome of a first ranking and another player in that round of play has a hand  
25 of a higher ranking, awarding said player having the hand of a first ranking said secondary jackpot.

12. A method for playing a casino game comprising:

the player making an initial wager to participate in the game;

presenting a partial outcome to the player consisting of at least two exposed indicia representing an initial holding, said indicia randomly selected from a field of indicia, at least three exposed indicia representing a final outcome;

the player opting to stand or raise, if the player stands revealing the remaining indicia to define a final outcome, if the player opts to raise, the player placing a second wager and holding or discard some or none of the indicia of the initial holding;

replicating the held indicia into a second hand and replacing any discarded indicia of the initial holding and the corresponding position in the second hand with replacement indicia and exposing the remaining indicia for each of the initial and second hands to define first and second final outcome; and

comparing each of the final outcomes to a schedule of winning final outcomes and if the player has obtained a winning final outcome paying the player based upon their wager(s) and if the player has not obtained a winning final outcome collecting the player's wager(s).

13. The method of claim 12 wherein presenting said indicia includes providing a display of five playing cards and providing said winning outcomes based upon the ranking of hands of Poker.

14. The method of claim 13 including,

providing an initial display of three cards of a five card Poker hand,



the player opting to place a second wager or stand, if the player stands revealing the remaining two cards to define a five card, final outcome, Poker hand,

5 if the player makes a second wager, the player opting to hold none to three of the displayed cards;

replicating any held cards into a second displayed and replacing the cards which were not held in the initial hand and exposing the fourth card, and completing the second hand to a holding of four displayed cards;

10 the player opting to place a third wager or stand, if the player stands, revealing the fifth card of the initial hand to define an outcome and completing the second hand to a displayed five card final outcome;

if the player opts to place a third wager, replicating some of the displayed cards of the initial and second hands into a third hand and revealing the remaining cards for all three hands to define three five card, final outcome, 15 Poker hands;

comparing each of the final outcomes to said schedule of winning outcomes; and

for each winning final outcome paying the player.

15. A method for playing a casino game including a primary game of Poker 20 which is not banked by the casino comprising:

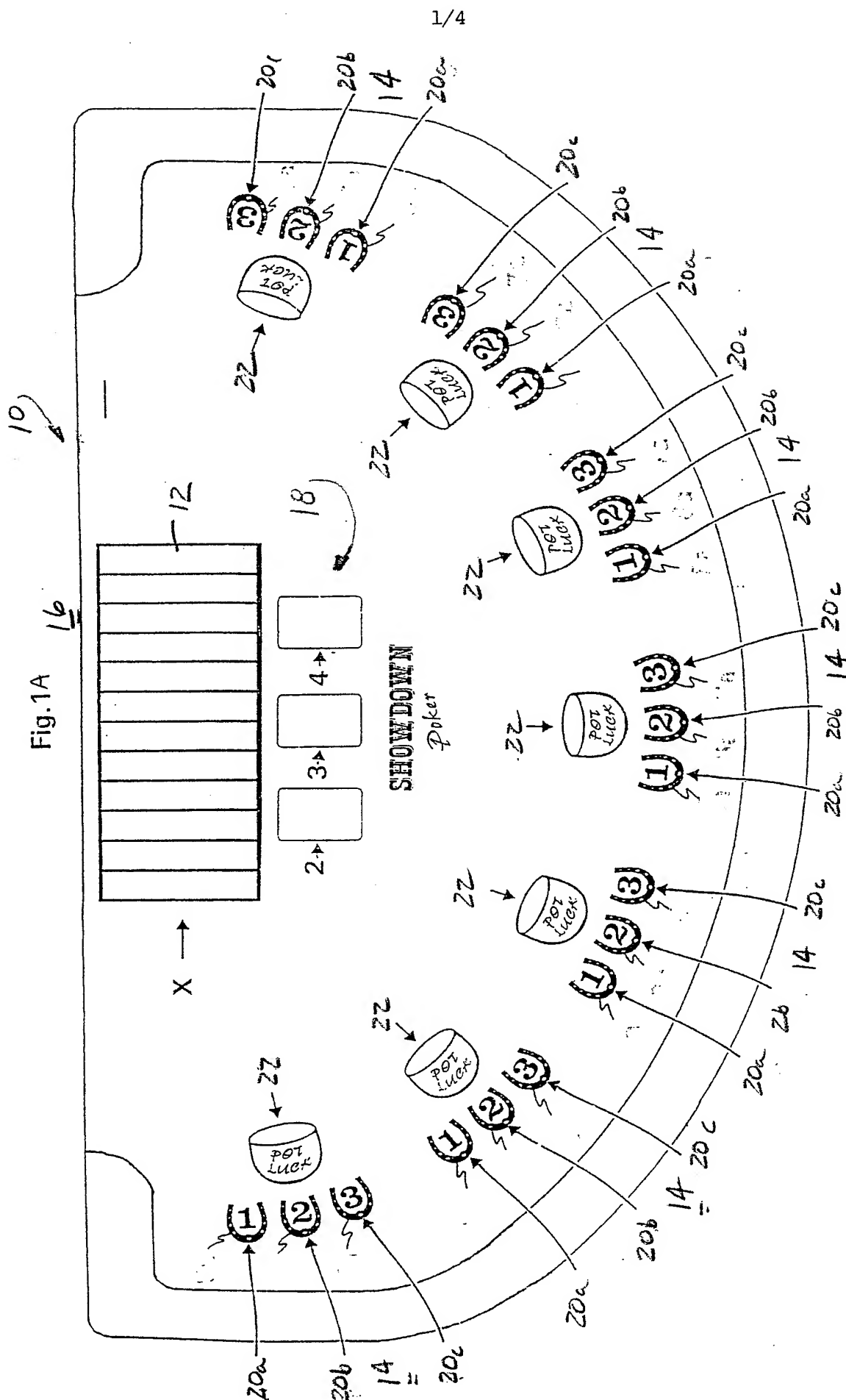
the player making wagers to participate in the primary game and a second outcome wager, the primary game wagers assembled into a pot;

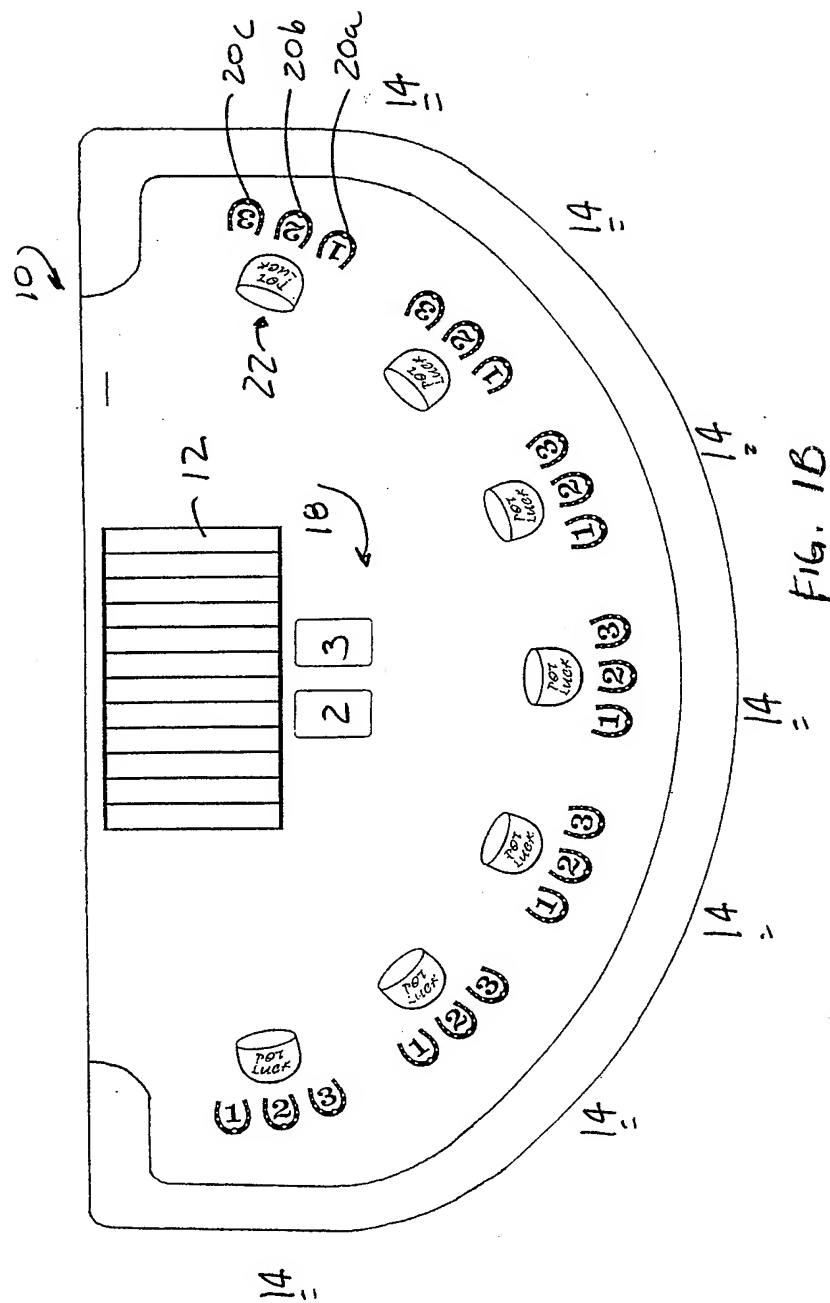
25 dealing cards to each player according to the rules of the primary game, each of said players making additional wagers as required by the rules of the primary game to define an outcome for the primary game;

awarding the pot to the player according to the rules of the primary game; and

5 comparing the final outcome to a pre-determined schedule of winning final outcomes and if the player has obtained a winning final outcome the casino paying the player based upon their outcome wager(s) and if the player has not obtained a winning final outcome collecting the player's wager(s).

Fig. 1A





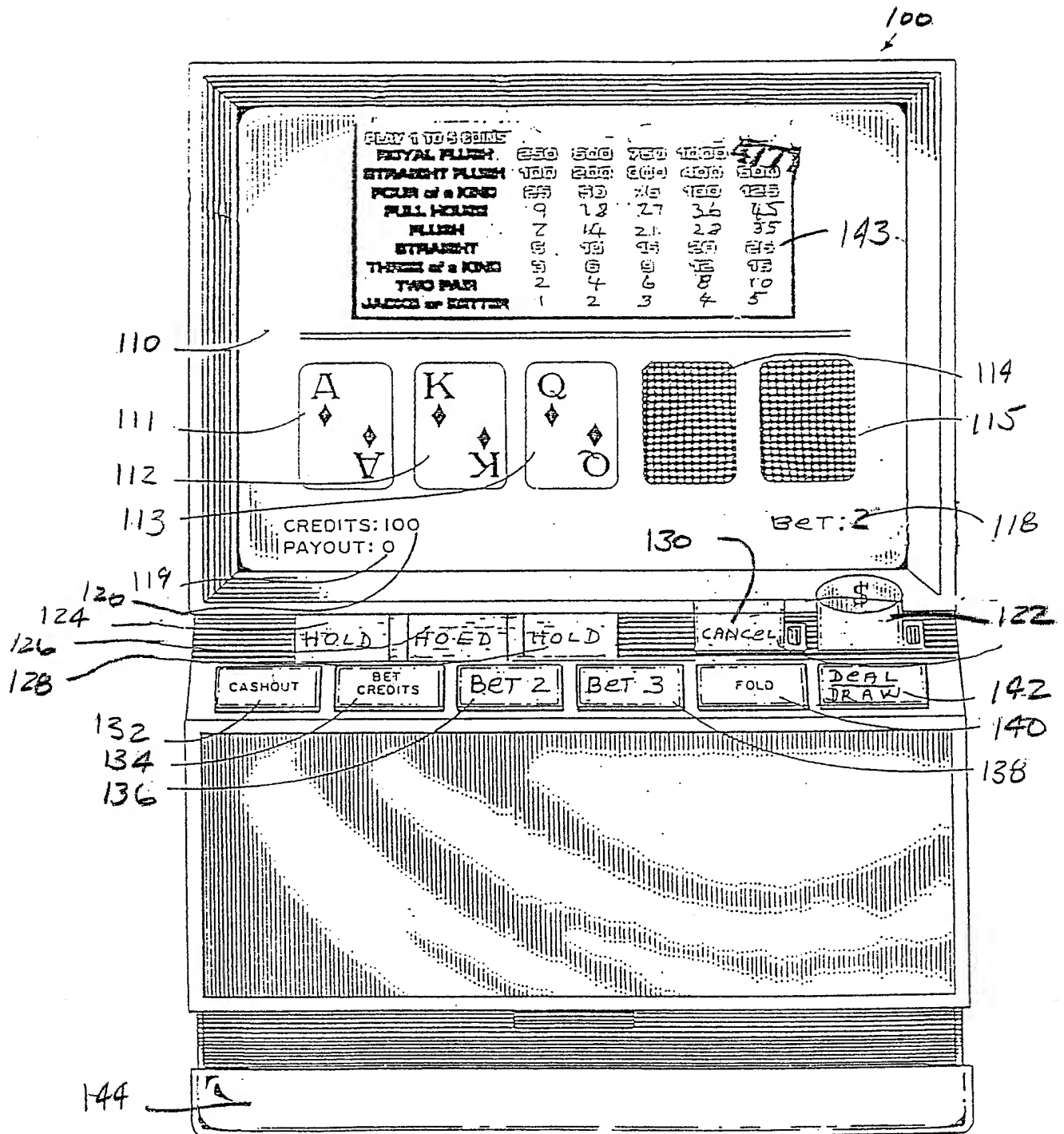


FIG. 2

